

Application No. 10/803,647  
Filed: March 18, 2004  
TC Art Unit: 1743  
Confirmation No.: 5353

#### REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment is filed in response to the official action dated March 29, 2005. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-14 are currently pending.

Claims 1-14 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended.

Claims 8 and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 15 has been added.

#### ELECTION

The Applicants elect the species comprising an HPLC column (claims 1-7, 9-10, and 13-14 Figs. 6-10) without traverse.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a device for storing and/or treating chemicals, including a casing in the form of a sampling tube having two open ends, the sampling tube defining a receiving cavity for storing chemicals therein, the receiving cavity accommodating an absorption material, and wherein the sampling tube is provided with a transponder including a

-6-

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memory, the transponder being arranged in the sampling tube such that it cannot be affected by the chemicals. The Applicants have further amended claim 7 to recite the device according to claim 1, wherein the transponder is embedded in the absorption material. The limitations of amended claims 1 and 7 are described throughout the instant application, for example, see page 6, lines 5-26, and Fig. 6, of the application.

In addition, the Applicants have added claim 15, which recites the device according to claim 1, wherein the sampling tube is received in a package which is made of glass and filled with inert gas, the package having closed ends. The limitations of added claim 15 are described on page 6, lines 19-26, and Fig. 6, of the application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is placed in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of

-7-

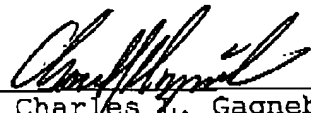
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the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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